

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention is directed to a method for repair defects in articular cartilage, and, more particularly, to a new method for performing automated microfracture surgery on subchondral bone to repair articular cartilage. The microfractured holes on the surface of the 5 subchondral bone are formed with an automated process using a pneumatically driven orthopedic microfracture instrument. The instrument moves a fracture pin through the end of a guide tube until a sharp end of the fracture pin punctures or penetrates the subchondral bone plate and creates a microfracture or hole in the bone.